

REMARKS

In the Office Action claims 1-35 were rejected. All of the claims are believed to be patentable in their current form. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are requested.

The present application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent No. 6,786,487 and the specification has been amended to reflect the patent number of the parent patent application.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

In the office action, it appears that the Examiner rejected claims 1-35 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Dinc, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,786,487; hereinafter "Dinc"). However, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection cannot stand on account of the following reasons:

Dinc is not a 102(b) reference.

The present application was filed on July 31, 2003, while Dinc was published on June 5, 2003. Hence, Dinc cannot be considered for rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as it was not published over a year before the filing date of the present application.

The present application is a continuation-in-part of Dinc.

The present application benefits from the filing date of Dinc to the extent that the claims of the present application are supported by the disclosure of Dinc. Even if it is the Examiner's contention that the claims of the present application are disclosed by Dinc, those claims would, consequently, fully benefit from the earlier filing date. Hence, Dinc cannot be considered for rejection under 35 U.S.C. §§102(a) and 102(e).

Moreover, since Dinc and the present application are commonly assigned, Dinc cannot be considered for rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 due to the provision in 35 U.S.C. § 103(c).

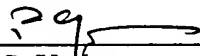
Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejections of claims 1-35 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the remarks and amendments set forth above, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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